Government from the farmers of Hoshangabad district and a part of it came from Punjab;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that two lakh tonne wheat worth more than rupees 185 crore has rotten and the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food and Civil Supplies has recommended that it should be thrown into the sea; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a No, Sir.

(b) Out of the total stocks of 299.77 lakh tons of foodgrains available with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as on 1st October 2001, only 2.18 lakh tons are damaged which works out to 0.72%.

(c) Inspite of various steps taken for maintenance and preservation of foodgrains, some damage to the foodgrains stock takes place due to prolonged storage as well as due to natural calamities such as flood, cyclone etc. Such damaged stocks retrieved after segregation and salvaging, are disposed off for purposes of cattle feed, industrial use, manure and dumping as these are not fit for human consumption.

Disposal of Sugar Stocks

498. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) wherther Government are aware that sugar worth Rs. 1,800 crores is lying in godowns of Karnataka;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has requested to help to clear the sugar stocks; and

(c) if so, the action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The Government is aware of the high level of sugar stocks held by sugar factories in the country including the factories located in the State of Karnataka. As intimated by the State Government of Karnataka,, about 9.08

lakh MTs of sugar is lying in the various godowns of Karnataka, worth about Rs. 1174.00 crores as on 31.10.2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In order to reduce sugar stocks, the Government is, *inter-alia,* encouraging the export of sugar. The following measures have been taken in this regard:—

(i) Levy exemption has been given on the quantity of sugar exported.

(ii) The quantity of sugar exported is treated as advance free sale release and is adjusted after a period of 12 months from the date of release. Government has recently on 13.11.2001 increased the defemment of adjustment to 18 months.

(iii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) @ 5% value of F.O.B. price of sugar has been allowed.

(iv) Quantitative ceiling on export of sugar has been removed,

(v) Requirement of Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate from the Agricultural & Processed Food Export Development Authority(APEDA) has been dispensed with effect from 1.42001.

(vi) State Governments of the major sugar producing States have been requested to give remission in purchase tax on sugarcane on the quantity of sugar exported.

The sugar factories have been provided temporary relief by way of permitting them to sell equivalent quantity of unlifted levy sugar stocks as freesale sugar in the open market. During the sugar season 2000-2001, out of 1,62631 MTs. of unlifted levy sugar stocks so far permitted to be sold as free sale sugar, the share of sugar factories in Karnataka works out to 48,803.6 MTs.

Advance releases of free sale sugar have been made, subject to adjustment and 5% levy obligations, to needy sugar mills to enable them the clear cane price dues of the farmers and to reduce their stocks.

Increase in prices of onion and potato

499. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there has been a sudden spurt in the prices of onion and potato in the country, recently;